

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:12 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday, Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced members of the cast from the recent "Rent" musical, who performed a musical number from the play. The directors and cast received thanks from the Superintendent, NHS Mike Parent and Mayor Donna Holaday.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$17,709.99

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$247,126.82

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

Minutes

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Meeting minutes of Monday, March 5, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Alex Bradley reported on the following:

- On March 21st a hypnotist will entertain

- Next week is the No Talent/Talent Show
- On March 30 the NHS National Honor Society will hold a blood drive

FY13 - BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

High School:

Principal Mike Parent presented and explained the NHS FY13 budget. He introduced his School Council and thanked them for all their help. He explained that things could change a bit, as students drive the schedule. (Principal Parent announced he received word from the NEF of a \$100,000 donation from the Institution for Savings Bank for the NHS Library Media Center.)(Applause)

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired if Principal Parent could give a rough total of his spreadsheet. Principal Parent said approximately \$110,000.

Dan Koen questioned the figures. Principal Parent explained.

Cheryl Sweeney asked:

- If the draft budget reflected this spreadsheet. Principal Parent said yes.
- Supplies & materials - \$3,000 – please explain the science 2nd item. Principal Parent explained.
- Regarding moving people around – are they certified for the new positions? Principal Parent said yes.

Dan Koen inquired regarding an apparent School Administration increase – please explain. Principal Parent said this was a mistake. Dr. Kerble explained that last year there was a Principal and two Deans. Principal Parent gave up one Dean – he would rather have teachers. He and Mike Testa are carrying the load of three people. Principal Parent said everyone has been helpful – it is a real team effort. The attitude of everyone is “What can I do to help”.

Nick deKanter asked for an explanation of the Technology 2.6 teaching positions. Principal Parent explained. There is a real reallocation of resources.

Bruce Menin said he was really impressed with the thoughtfulness in the presentation/cultural change. He inquired regarding the following:

- \$3,000 – Kindles – how many? Principal Parent said approximately 25 to 30.
- AP Psychology/2013. Principal Parent said yes.
- 9 – 12 per class? Principal Parent said yes, per class.
- New classes. Principal Parent explained.
- 990 hours – where are we? Principal Parent said less than 9 hours for 2/3rds of our students. We are close.
- Is this a staff issue? Principal Parent explained.
- Mr. Menin said we are heading in the right direction.

Steve Cole said he echoed comments – this is a very creative budget presentation. He inquired regarding the .4 FTE in Science. Principal Parent explained.

Dan Koen inquired regarding Technology – are we losing any courses. Principal Parent said no – these courses are being absorbed into Art/Science. Mr. Koen said Principal Parents honesty impresses him – what is good and what is bad.

Bruce Menin inquired from the NHS School Council if they had any comments. Dr. Ralph Orlando said we are losing the Technology Department, but not losing any courses. A late arrival sounds good. We must sustain things – we must look at how to keep things.

Dr. Kerble thanked Principal Parent and his School Council for this detailed explanation of this portion of the budget.

Athletic Budget:

Athletic Director John Daileanes presented the FY13 Athletic Budget. He commented on how he and Principal Barry Hopping have added many athletic opportunities to the Molin School: Field Hockey – 25 students; Golf –

from 8 to 30 students; Cross Country boys and girls; Swimming at the YWCA – adding a 2nd session; Intramural Volleyball; Boys and Girls Track.

Athletic Director Daileanes said 60% of NHS students will be participating in sports this year. There is really nothing incredibly drastic in the budget. League dues might go up. It is great to work with Principal Parent and Mike Testa and a great environment to work in.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter stated that athletic participation cost more than just the fees. Are we keeping tabs on additional costs? Director Daileanes said that teams fundraise for items. All coaches have to go through him for approval to conduct a fundraiser. For families that can't afford a fee we have scholarships available. Principal Parent said teams are on a rotational basis to replace items. The concussion program has taken up a lot of John's time, but it is well worth it. There is now girls' ice hockey, downhill ski club and a group trying for a sailing club.

Nick deKanter commented on the concussion program – he is very pleased with this. He inquired regarding gate receipts. Director Daileanes said he will provide figures.

Dan Koen said he is pleased that we have been holding fees down for the past four years. Director Daileanes said coaches do a lot – they go above and beyond and provide great support from the top down.

Audrey McCarthy asked what does this fee cover – uniforms or transportation, etc? Director Daileanes explained that the money goes into a revolving account and is used primarily for coach's salaries, uniforms, etc.

Audrey McCarthy asked why is the fee higher for upper grades? Director Daileanes explained.

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding field maintenance – where is it in the budget. Director Daileanes said this is not part of the athletic budget.

Bruce Menin commented on a neighboring school allowing students to opt out of Phys Ed.

Nick deKanter commented on fan support – Newburyport has good support at events, but it is not organized. Director Daileanes said this is a double edged sword. Regarding sportsmanship – he hopes the students will support each other. He commented on student support.

Dr. Kerble thanked Director Daileanes and Principal Parent for their detailed explanation of this portion of the budget.

Curriculum and Instruction Budget:

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Angela Bik presented the FY13 Curriculum and Instruction budget.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney inquired:

- regarding the \$27,000 Tuition figure – for teachers to advance – tuition reimbursement – how have we utilized it. Ms. Bik said all of it – she spoke of tuition reimbursement.
- inquired if this was fair – do we run out of money? Ms. Bik said last year we ran out of money on the first “asks” – there was no money left for 2nd “asks”.
- Questioned in-service workshop courses. Ms Bik explained.

Mayor Holaday inquired:

- MCAS support – who coordinates this. Ms. Bik said Erin Connors – she explained the procedures.
- Grants – how does she find this reflected in the budget? Ms. Bik explained.

Dan Koen stated that grants total \$1.2 million – that means that costs to run our schools are really \$1.2 million more. Ms. Bik said yes. Dr. Kerble said that if we did not have these grants our class sizes would be much higher.

Dan Koen said these should be reflected in the budget so people would realize this.

Dr. Kerble inquired how many reading teachers are paid for by the budget. Ms. Bik said one – others are paid for by the grants.

Karen Brann said these grants are audited by federal auditors – we have to be very careful. Ms. Bik said we had a Title I audit in January.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding the consultant – how are fees determined. Ms. Bik and Ms. Brann explained.

Bruce Menin spoke of donations over the last three years – we need to present this to the community.

Mayor Holaday suggested putting the grants in as a narrative when presented to the city council.

Dr. Kerble thanked Assistant Superintendent Bik for this detailed explanation of this portion of the budget

Special Education Budget:

Director of Special Education Karen Brann presented the FY13 Special Education Budget.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding Circuit Breaker/budget and asked for an explanation. Ms. Brann explained.

Ms. Brann commented on School Choice reimbursement and how it works with special education.

ELL – Ms. Brann presented and explained this portion of the budget.

Dr. Kerble thanked Assistant Superintendent Bik and Director Brann for their detailed explanations of their budgets.

MSBA UPDATE:

Mayor Holaday presented an update on MSBA progress:

- There was a second meeting with Bresnahan abutters last Wednesday evening to which 50+ people attended. Many pertinent questions concerning traffic, buses, access, field space, green space, construction times, etc. were raised and discussed. It was an informative evening.
- Nock/Molin – the assessment is finished – we are very optimistic.
- City Council meeting next Tuesday – she urged School Committee members to be there.
- We will have hard numbers by April 19th, which may come in higher than anticipated.
- March 29th – roll out “Port Pride” – at Michael’s Harborside – 7 PM.

Discussion:

Steve Cole inquired:

- If we have information that the proposed site is the best site for the Bresnahan School. Mayor Holaday said yes, and explained all the research and procedures that have gone into surveying this site.
- Mr. Cole commented on suggestions on optional building designs. Mayor Holaday explained.

Dan Koen explained that concerns of this site have come up several times to the building committee – things have been double and triple checked.

Bruce Menin commented on three questions which will be on the ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously